

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-6 cancelled

7. (new) A driving gear or a toothed wheel for power transmission in tools, the gear comprising:

a non-thermally hardened steel body having ferritic or perlitic structure and an uncoated surface hardness of at least 25 HRC; and
a hard surface coating disposed on said steel body, said coating having a thickness of less than 10µm.

8. (new) The driving gear of claim 7, wherein said steel body comprises embedded manganese sulphides and 0.4 to 0.5 mass % carbon, 1.13 to 1.70 mass % manganese, and 0.2 to 0.35 mass % sulphur.
9. (new) The driving gear of claim 8, wherein said steel body comprises silicon and phosphor.
10. (new) The driving gear of claim 7, wherein said surface coating is WCH, DLC, W-DLC, CrN, or combinations thereof.
11. (new) The driving gear of claim 7, wherein said surface coating has a thickness of 2 to 10µm.
12. (new) The driving gear of claim 11, wherein said thickness is 3 to 7 µm.

13. (new) The driving gear of claim 7, wherein said uncoated surface has a Rockwell hardness of 25 to 35 HRC, 26 to 35 HRC, 27 to 35 HRC, or of 27 to 30 HRC.
14. (new) The driving gear of claim 7, wherein said hard surface coating has a micro hardness HV 0.03 of at least HV 1200 or of at least HV 1250.